

1-245-A Site Summary - Little River Estuary**1-245-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - E - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18600**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.01655 -124.10948**Site Description:**

This area is managed by State Parks as Little River State Beach and the adjacent Moonstone Beach managed by Humboldt County Parks. Moonstone Beach is a popular public beach and surfing spot. Little River has a tidal inlet and marsh between the shoreline and Highway 101. It has a fine- to medium-grain sand beach with a large exposed tidal flat at lower tides. Western snowy plover are active in the area.

Seabirds near site include double-crested cormorant, rhinoceros auklet, fork-tailed storm-petrel (SSC), tufted puffin (SSC). Shorebirds include western snowy plover (FT)(01-12): FWS Critical Habitat, nesting period (03-09). Nests directly on sand within dunes. Bank swallow (ST). Anadromous salmonids: coho (FT,ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT), and coastal cutthroat (SSC) trout: spawning runs (08-06); juveniles/smolts (04-07). Pacific lamprey (SSC), surfperch (04-06). Western pond turtle (SSC) upstream in estuary. Sensitive plants in dunes include beach layia, pink sand verbena and Wolf's evening primrose (all CNPS 1B.1) and a marsh complex upstream in estuary.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

7 Exposed tidal flat

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	bald eagle	FP, SE	Year-round	
Birds	common loon	FP, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Plants	beach layia	FE, SE	Year-round	
Reptiles	western pond turtle	SSC	Year-round	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
E	/	Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
O	/Supervisor Ranger (24hr)	NORCOM State Parks Dispatch	(916) 358-1300
O	/	The Friends of the Dunes	(707) 444-1397
T	/	California State Parks North Coast District	(707) 445-6547
T	/	Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201
T	/	Yurok Tribal Office, Klamath	(707) 482-1350

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

Additional Site Summary Comments:

The access to this popular surf spot is directly against the booming response area. Western snowy plover utilize the beaches to the south of this site for nesting and foraging during the spring and summer. Contact State Parks for guidance prior to initiating response. The sandy beach from the river mouth south along Clam Beach is western snowy plover nesting habitat. Any responders working in this area should remain on the wet sand below the high tide line, (except at high tide) to minimize disruptions to plover nests and adults.

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org).

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Preventing oil from spreading into the upper end of the estuary on the flood tide is the primary goal of responding at this location. All response efforts will have to consider that this is the access point to one of the most popular surfing areas in Humboldt County and that western snowy plover may be present year round.

Hazard and Restrictions:

The mouth of the estuary has severe tidal currents that will make any booming efforts difficult if not impossible to do safely. Heavy winter flows may preclude response.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 1-245.1 Objective: Exclusion of oil on an incoming tide during low river flows

Strategy: Exclude oil on an incoming tide during low river flows. Strand oil onto the southern spit using boom. Back up boom with oil sweep (SWP).

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	700 feet				
Other Boom	Sweep	700 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		4		
boat	Skiff			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			6		

Strategy: 1-245.2 Objective: Arrest incoming (heavy) oil with pom-pom snares

Strategy: Arrest incoming oil with pom-pom snares. Anchor strings of pom-poms across the entrance to capture incoming oil. Two or three strings should be sufficient.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Other Boom	Pom-pom	2100 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		6		
boat	Skiff			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		
Staff	Staff to Tend			2		

Logistics:

Directions: From Eureka, go north on Hwy 101. Take Westhaven Drive Exit 726A, turn left under freeway and left again onto Scenic Drive, turn right onto Moonstone Beach Rd and follow downhill to beach parking area at end. The beach south of the river is accessible from Crannell Rd Exit 725.

Land Access: Easily accessed. Heavy equipment accessible

On-Water Limitations: Hand launching of skiffs may be possible

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: The parking lot could serve as a staging area for local response equipment. There are no facilities or utilities for emergency response use, with exception of a dinner restaurant that may be open for business. Food and fuel are available a few miles north on Hwy 101 in Trinidad or a few miles south in McKinleyville.

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: For Little River flow gauge information see: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11481200/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

